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HEADQUARTERS
WEATHER REPORTING ELEMENT, PROVISIONAL
APO 187, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

MAR 1954 76559

SUBJECT: Radiation Monitoring and Operational Readiness Plan for Rongerik Atoll

RG 342
Location Tech Lib B-2
Access AFWL
Folder The Rongerik Incident MAR-APR 1954

THRU: Commander, Test Services Unit, Prov.
APO 187

TO: Commander, Task Group 7.4, Prov.
APO 187

1. Rongerik Atoll, site of Weather Reporting Element, Provisional Detachment Number 1, having been rendered untenable by excessive radiation, must be monitored to determine the time when it can again become operational and all operating equipment checked and maintenance performed to retain its usefulness.

2. To perform the mission as stated in paragraph 1, it is proposed that a team be sent to Rongerik twice a week composed of the following:

a. An Officer in Charge to be furnished by WREP.

b. A Radiological Safety Monitor to be furnished by Headquarters, Task Group 7.4.

c. A Radio Mechanic to be furnished by the Communications Element, Provisional.

d. A Motor Mechanic to be furnished by the Communications Element, Provisional.

e. A DUKW operator and mechanic to be obtained from Task Group 7.2 by Headquarters, Task Group 7.4.

3. Transportation for the mission, as stated in paragraph 1, should be by amphibious aircraft and furnished by the Commander, Naval Station, Kwajalein. Request for the transportation will be made by Commander, Weather Reporting Element as a routine flight through established channels.

4. It is estimated that two hours ashore will be required to accomplish the following duties:

a. Rad-Safe Monitor:

(1) Determine feasibility of the party going ashore for one or two hours.

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/DOD
DNA 8/6/86
REVIEWED BY DNA LTR (ISCM) 7/10/85
* Per DNA LTR (ISCM) 7/10/85 Cancellation 8/26/86
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(2) Obtain samples of soil as follows:

(a) Four from living area.

(b) Two from weather site.

(c) Two from Army site.

(3) Obtain sample of sea water.

(4) Obtain sample of water from distillation unit.

(5) Obtain sample of water from storage tank.

(6) Obtain samples of non-perishable food.

(7) Take radiation readings on varied food products.

(8) Record information for plotting iso-dose lines in living and working areas and along the roads on the island.

(9) Take radiation readings on operational equipment.

b. Motor Mechanic:

(1) Check all power units for operation.

(2) Check operation of motor vehicle.

(3) Check operation of refrigerator units both gasoline powered and electric.

(4) Check power supply of water distillation unit.

c. Radio Mechanic:

(1) Check operation of SCR-399 and homer.

(2) Assist with evacuation of perishable cold storage foods.

d. DUKW Operator and Mechanic:

(1) Check operation of DUKW.

(2) Evacuate perishable cold storage foods.

5. To provide maximum precautions against radiation exposure, Task Group 7.4 Radiological Safety Officer will furnish the following:

a. Six fatigue type suits sizes:

b. Six pair heavy sox sizes:

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c. Six pair shoes sizes:

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d. Six pair protective gloves sizes:

e. Six fatigue type caps sizes:

f. Six pair shoe protective covers.

g. Four T-1B monitors:

h. Six film badges.

i. Six pocket dosimeters.

j. Twenty bottles or other containers for water, food and soil samples.

6. Access to the Island: The surf boat was left tied to the seaplane mooring buoy. This may have shipped water, in which case, the oars may have been lost. Two oars (8 foot) will be taken to provide for this contigency and for initial access to the beach. Once ashore, the DUKW may be used for further operation. Upon completion of the mission, gear to be returned will be brought out on the DUKW, transferred from the DUKW to the amphibious airplane with the surf boat, them the DUKW returned to the island and the final party returned to the seaplane by the surfboat which will be securely tied to the seaplane buoy. In the event that the surfboat has broken loose from the buoy and lost, a six-man liferaft will be used in its place.

7. Miscellaneous: The frozen food refrigerators were turned off prior to evacuation of personnel from the island. All this food is perishable and must be removed from the refrigerators if they are ever to be used again. This food should be loaded aboard the DUKW and dumped overboard about two miles west of the island in the lagoon. Two gas masks or suitable substitutes may be necessary for men accomplishing this task since these foods have been exposed to normal temperatures for a week.

All personnel checking equipment should be highly qualified so that little time will be lost if the equipment fails to perform normally. These personnel should also determine what spare or repair parts should be brought in on the following maintenance trip.

A rough map of the island as attached will be provided each person going ashore to readily locate equipment and areas.

All protective clothing will be donned prior to initial handling of the surfboat. During all activities ashore, clothing will be fastened at the neck, wrists and ankles. Protective sox will cover the lower extremeties of the trouser legs.

Upon returning to the seaplane, all clothing will be immediately removed and clean clothing put on.

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Immediately upon arrival on the island all electronic gear will be turned on and remain on all the time the party is ashore. This will provide maximum protection for the equipment against the elements.

FELLIE F ROBINSON
Major, USAF
Commander

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HEADQUARTERS, TEST SERVICES UNIT, PROVISIONAL, APO 187, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California 6 MAR 1954

TO: Commander, Task Group 7.4, Provisional, APO 187, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Forwarded for your consideration. This headquarters concurs in actions proposed in basic letter.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
n/c

JAMES W. MONTGOMERY
Major, USAF
Executive

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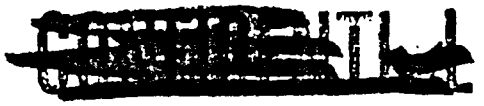

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HEADQUARTERS, TASK GROUP 7.4, PROVISIONAL, APO 187, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California 19 MAR 1954

TO: Commander, Test Services Unit, Provisional, APO 187, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California

1. This headquarters concurs in the general plan outlined in basic correspondence for the re-entry of RONGERIK.

2. Provided below are certain additional coordinative and implementation requirements to guide the planning effort of your headquarters for the periodic re-entry into RONGERIK and the eventual re-establishment of its weather reporting facilities to normal operating condition. The completion of these actions will aid in accomplishing the objective of this important mission.

a. The Test Services Unit has conducted the first in a series of re-entry missions to RONGERIK to inspect, service, maintain and operate the equipment installed thereat. Succeeding re-entry missions for this purpose will be conducted approximately five (5) days to one (1) week apart and the period any team remains on RONGERIK will not exceed rad-safe limits. The initial re-entry team was transported to RONGERIK via surface vessel. It is contemplated that amphibious aircraft will be used for subsequent trips and that the team will consist of five (5) to seven (7) personnel.

b. The Commander, Test Services Unit, is authorized to make arrangements to secure necessary transportation for subsequent re-entry missions, in accordance with procedures which already exist for normal logistical support of the weather islands. In the event that transportation for future re-entry missions can not be obtained from this source, the Commander, Test Services Unit, is authorized to coordinate his requirement with the Commander, Test Support Unit, who will make every effort to provide airlift support for this project with available amphibious aircraft. The Commander, Test Support Unit, has been advised concerning this contingency.

c. A qualified DUKW operator, who is also a qualified DUKW maintenance and repair mechanic, will accompany each re-entry team, to restore the RONGERIK DUKW to a fully operational condition and to operate the vehicle for the team on each re-entry mission to RONGERIK.

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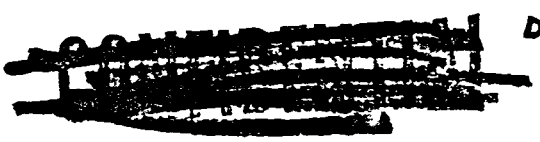

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The Test Services Unit will coordinate this requirement with the Director of Personnel, this headquarters, who is initiating appropriate action.

d. A Radiological Safety Monitor will accompany, and be a member of, each re-entry team; and it is the responsibility of the operating unit to insure that this requirement is fulfilled.

e. The Commander, Test Aircraft Unit, will provide the Test Services Unit with a fully qualified Radiological Safety Monitor who will accompany, and become a member of each re-entry team, until such time as the radiation level on RONGERIK does not constitute a hazard to personnel. The Commander, Test Aircraft Unit, has knowledge of this requirement and will be contacted directly in further coordination to be effected by the Commander, Test Services Unit.

f. As part of his specific duties, the Rad/Safety monitor will:

(1) Insure that no member of the re-entry party is unduly exposed to excessive radiation.

(2) Brief the team prior to take-off concerning the radiation hazards which they are likely to encounter.

(3) Determine the radiation hazard at each location on RONGERIK scheduled for re-entry during a mission, this function to be completed before an individual enters the particular location.

(4) Coordinate the issue of film badges, dosimeters, etc., to all members of the re-entry party, supervise the use and handling of the equipment and insure its proper post-mission disposition.

g. On each re-entry mission, radiation intensities, as indicated by detection instruments, will be recorded and forwarded to the Director of Operations, this headquarters, ATTN: Technical Projects Division, upon return of the team to ENIWETOK. In addition, samples of coral and other contaminated debris, found in the vicinity of working areas at RONGERIK, will be obtained under the direct supervision of the Rad/Safety monitor, who will convey the samples to a representative of Task Group 7.1 upon return of the team to ENIWETOK. The Rad/Safety member of the team also will record on a map or sketch the approximate physical location on the island at which each sample was collected. To assist in recording this important data, there are attached hereto, as Inclosure #1,

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Plan for Rongerik Atoll

forty (40) copies of a hand-drawn map of RONGERIK (not drawn to scale). Details concerning the foregoing rad/safety requirements first should be obtained from Lt Colonel James E. Crosby, Directorate of Operations, this headquarters.

h. The Commander, Test Aircraft Unit, has been requested to provide the Test Services Unit with the following items of equipment to support at least six (6) personnel who will constitute the re-entry team:

(1) Fatigue type suits

(2) Heavy socks

(3) Shoes

(4) Protective gloves

(5) Fatigue type caps

(6) Shoe protective covers

(7) T-1B monitors (approximately four (4))

(8) Film badges

(9) Pocket dosimeters

(10) Bottles or other adequate containers for water, food, and soil samples.

The exact quantities, types and sizes as appropriate, of the above items, which are required for this operation, will be transmitted to the Test Aircraft Unit through direct coordinative action by the Commander, Test Services Unit. The Rad/Safety member of each re-entry team must insure that the protective devices and equipment are properly worn and/or used at all times.

i. The Commander, Test Services Unit, will be responsible for organizing the re-entry team and insuring that necessary materiel, particularly emergency and protective equipment adequate to meet the requirements of the operation, accompanies each re-entry party. He will insure that all personnel, including the aircraft crew, possess required film badges, dosimeters, etc., this latter function to be coordinated with the Rad-Safety monitor. He will insure that the entire re-entry party are

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thoroughly briefed on all aspects of their mission and that the re-entry plan is appropriately coordinated with all agencies providing support for his mission.

j. Within two (2) days subsequent to the return of a re-entry team, an over-all report covering the entire mission will be submitted in triplicate to this headquarters, ATTN: Director of Operations. This report will include, but not be limited to, coverage of the following important topics:

(1) Conditions of equipment and its operational status in general.

(2) Any unusual condition affecting special equipment which indicates excessive maintenance or replacement requirements.

(3) Any abnormal condition of utilities and related facilities which may adversely affect living conditions when RONGERIK is re-occupied for normal operations.

(4) Any observation which indicates damage to or deterioration of equipment, housing and working areas or impairment of supplies.

(5) Any other pertinent observation which the Commander, Test Services Unit, considers significant to the re-establishment of the weather reporting capability on RONGERIK ISLAND.

k. With reference to personnel who were evacuated from RONGERIK, the Commander, Test Services Unit, will submit a report which will reflect the movement of each evacuee for whom he is responsible, to include dates and locations, from the time the individual was evacuated until he reaches his ultimate duty destination in the forward area. Thereafter, a report will be submitted on the individual whenever he is transferred within the area and until he departs from the forward area in a permanent status. These reports will be submitted to the Director of Personnel, this headquarters.

l. Provided that radiological contamination has dissipated safely, the Commander, Test Services Unit, will re-establish the weather reporting facilities to normal operation subsequent to 18 March 1954.

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Only personnel who previously have not been exposed to radiation intensities considered excessive, will be assigned to man the weather reporting installation on RONGERIK ISLAND.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER:

A. J. AMERSON
Captain, USAF
Adjutant

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Map of Rongerik (40 cys)

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